

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A mobile communication system including a plurality of radio base stations and a terminal device that can connect with said radio base stations, comprising:

a deterioration detection ~~[[means]]~~ facility, operable in a state that allows said terminal device to handle handovers from a first, anchor radio base station to a second radio base station and to communicate ~~performs communication~~ through a path which passes through said first, anchor radio base station, for detecting deterioration in a communication state between said terminal device and said second radio base station; and

a distribution ~~[[means]]~~ facility, operable when said terminal device performs a handover to a third radio base station, caused by that the deterioration in said communication state ~~[[is]]~~ being detected, in addition to the packets addressed to said terminal device, ~~[[which]]~~ to start to ~~be buffered~~ buffer said packets by said first radio base station before said terminal device performs the handover and ~~[[are]]~~ to be buffered in said first radio base station after the handover of said terminal device is completed, for distributing packets addressed to said terminal device, which are newly received, to said terminal device through said third radio base station, in accordance of an order of reception of said packets,

wherein, upon the handover of said terminal, said first, anchor radio base station switches a radio base station which serves as a destination of the packet.

28. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, wherein said deterioration detection ~~[[means]]~~ facility is configured to determine deterioration in said communication state by a detection ~~[[result]]~~ of a signal reception ~~[[powe]]~~ power.

29. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, wherein said deterioration detection ~~[[means]]~~ facility is configured to determine deterioration in said communication state by a bit error rate.

30. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, wherein said terminal device is provided with said deterioration detection ~~[[means]]~~ facility.

31. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, wherein said first, anchor radio base station is provided with said deterioration detection ~~[[means]]~~ facility.

32. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, further comprising request means for requesting that said second radio base station makes said first radio base station buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device before said terminal device performs a handover.

33. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication system according to claim 27, wherein said terminal device has change means for changing a radio base station to which the terminal device is going to perform a handover, to another radio base station, in accordance with a result of researching a communication state with another radio base station.

34. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication system according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ 32, wherein said terminal device has change means for changing a radio base station to which the terminal device is going to perform a handover, to another radio base station, in accordance with a result of researching a communication state with another radio base station.

35. (Previously Presented) A radio base station that is used while being connected to a terminal device, comprising:

deterioration detection means for detecting deterioration in a communication state with said terminal device;

detection means for detecting whether or not packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from another radio base station; and

storage means for temporarily storing the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are not forwarded from another radio base station.

36. (Previously Presented) The radio base station according to claim 35, further comprising request means for requesting another radio base station to temporarily store the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from said another radio base station.

37. (Previously Presented) The radio base station according to claim 35, further comprising request means for requesting said another radio base station to temporarily store the packets addressed to said terminal device when a request that another base station temporarily buffers the packets addressed to said terminal device is received from said terminal device and the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from said another radio base station.

38. (Previously Presented) A terminal device that can connect with a plurality of radio base stations, comprising:

deterioration detection means for detecting deterioration in a communication state with the radio base stations that are connected;

detection means for detecting whether or not the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from another radio base station; and

request means for requesting said radio base station to buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are not forwarded from another radio base station.

39. (Previously Presented) The terminal device according to claim 38, further comprising means for requesting said radio base station to ask another radio base station to buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from said another radio base station.

40. (Previously Presented) The terminal device according to claim 38, wherein said deterioration detection means measures a reception characteristic in a communication with said connected radio base station and detects deterioration in said communication state.

41. (Previously Presented) The terminal device according to claim 39, wherein said deterioration detection means measures a reception characteristic in a communication with said connected radio base station and detects deterioration in said communication state.

42. (Previously Presented) The terminal device according to claim 40, wherein said reception characteristic measured by said deterioration detection means is one of a signal reception power from said connected radio base station, a bit error rate, and a packet error rate, or a combination thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) The terminal device according to claim 41, wherein said reception characteristic measured by said deterioration detection means is one of a signal reception power from said connected radio base station, a bit error rate, and a packet error rate, or a combination thereof.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program that is used in a radio base station connected to a terminal device: said program medium being configured ~~making said radio base station function~~ as:

means for determining deterioration in a communication state with a connected terminal device;

means for determining whether or not the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from another radio base station; and

means for temporarily buffering the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are not forwarded from another radio base station.

45. (Currently Amended) The program medium according to claim 44, making said radio base station function as means for requesting another radio base station to temporarily buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from said another radio base station.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program used in a terminal device that can be connected to a radio base station, said program medium being configured making said terminal device function as:

means for determining deterioration in a communication state with a connected radio base station;

means for determining whether or not the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from another radio base station; and

means for requesting said radio base station to temporarily buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are not forwarded from another radio base station.

47. (Currently Amended) The program medium according to claim 46, making said terminal device function as means for requesting said connected radio base station to ask another radio base station to temporarily buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device when the deterioration in the communication state is detected and the packets addressed to said terminal device are forwarded from said another radio base station.

48. (Currently Amended) A mobile communication method in a mobile communication system including a plurality of radio base stations including a first, anchor base station and a terminal device that can connect with said radio base stations, comprising the steps of:

causing said first, anchor radio base station start to buffer packets addressed to said terminal device in a state ~~[[that]]~~ when said terminal device handles handovers from ~~[[a]]~~ said first, anchor radio base station to a second radio base station and performs communication through said first radio base station, when said terminal device performs a handover to a third radio base station, caused by deterioration in a communication state between said terminal device and said second radio base station, ~~making said first radio base station start to buffer packets addressed to said terminal device~~ before said terminal device performs the handover; and ~~after the handover of the terminal is completed, said first radio base station distributing~~ packets addressed to said terminal device, which are newly received, to said terminal device through said third radio base station in an order of reception, in addition to the packets addressed to said terminal which are buffered while switching a radio base station which serves as a destination of the packet, after the handover of the terminal is completed, said first radio base station.

49. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, wherein said deterioration in the communication state is determined by a detection result of a signal reception power.

50. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, wherein said deterioration in the communication state is determined by a bit error rate.

51. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, wherein said deterioration in the communication state is determined by a packet error rate.

52. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, wherein said deterioration in the communication state is detected in said terminal device.

53. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, wherein said deterioration in the communication state is detected in said radio base station.

54. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of making said second radio base station request said first radio base station to buffer the packets addressed to said terminal device before said terminal device performs a handover.

55. (Previously Presented) The mobile communication method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of said terminal device changing a radio base station to which the terminal device is going to perform a handover to another radio base station in accordance with a search result of the communication state with another radio base station.

56. (Currently Amended) The mobile communication method according to claim ~~[[55]]~~ 54, further comprising the step of said terminal device changing a radio base station to which the terminal device is going to perform a handover to another radio base station in accordance with a search result of the communication state with another radio base station.